

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEVILL 00232 041207Z

ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /007 W

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O 041040Z APR 78 ZFF-4

FM AMCONSUL SEVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2767

UNCLAS SEVILLE 0232

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES, SP (WILLIAMS, GERTRUDE)

SUBJ: DEATH OF GERTRUDE WILLIAMS

REF: STATE 085145, SEVILLE 0231

1. FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, TO BE CONVEYED TO FAMILY OF DECEASED GERTRUDE WILLIAMS AS APPROPRIATE, PROCEDURES IN SPAIN PROVIDE FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOUR WAITING PERIOD PRIOR TO PREPARATION OF ANY REMAINS FOR BURIAL OR SHIPMENT, SINCE AUTHORITIES MUST DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT AN AUTOPSY WILL BE NECESSARY. MR. WILLIAMS DEPARTED RATHER QUICKLY SAME EVENING MRS. WILLIAMS DIED, SO IT SEEMS UNLIKELY HE COULD HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT REMAINS ALREADY PREPARED BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE. WE MIGHT ALSO NOTE THAT UNDERTAKER CUSTOMARILY KEEPS REMAINS IN COLD STORAGE UNTIL DEFINITE SHIPMENT INSTRUCTIONS ARE FORTHCOMING, SINCE PRESERVATIVE FOR SHIPMENT ONLY LASTS ABOUT SEVEN DAYS. HENCE ONCE INSTRUCTIONS ARE RECEIVED, REMAINS ARE REMOVED FROM COLD STORAGE, PREPARED FOR SHIPMENT, AND CONSIGNED TO SHIPPING AIRLINE. SUCH PREPARATION BEGAN MONDAY APRIL 3, (REGRET DATE/TIME GROUP ON SEVILLE 0231 ERRONEOUSLY INDICATED APRIL 4 RATHER THAN APRIL 3). UNDERTAKER WILL TRAVEL FROM MALAGA TO SEVILLE ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 5 TO OBTAIN CONSULAR MORTUARY CERTIFICATE, AND REMAINS WILL BE SHIPPED FRIDAY APRIL 7 ON TWA FLIGHT WHICH IS DIRECT TO NEW YORK WITH ONE STOPOVER IN MADRID. WERE REMAINS TO BE SHIPPED THURSDAY, THEY WOULD NOT ARRIVE IN TIME FOR CHANGE OJLPLANES IN MADRID AND WOULD STILL DEPART FOR NEW YORK ON FRIDAY. TWA TELEX FROM MALAGA ERRONEOUS

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AND PERHAPS BASED UPON MISCONCEPTION OF AGENT THERE WITH REGARD TO PRECEDURES FOR PREPARATION PRIOR TO SHIPMENT.

2. REGRET WE COULD NOT BE MORE HELPFUL, BUT POST WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE REMAINS ARE SHIPPED BY FRIDAY APRIL 7.FOUCHE

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